

maximum, within 6 months of the date of the audit report.

(c)(1) The identification and tracking of contract audit reports under NASA cognizance are accomplished in cooperation with the DCAA.

(2) Identification and tracking of OMB Circular No. A-133 audit reports are accomplished in cooperation with the NASA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) by means of a transmittal memorandum. A transmittal memorandum is sent by the OIG to the procurement officer of each NASA Center having an award (contract, grant, or other agreement) covered by the audit report. The transmittal memorandum will identify any significant audit findings.

(d)(1) All reportable contract audit reports are defined by Part 15, Section 6, of the DCAA Contract Audit Manual (CAM) shall be reported quarterly to the Headquarters Office of Procurement (Code HC); and

(2) Only OMB Circular No. A-133 audit reports involving the following shall be reported quarterly to Code HC:

(i) A significant management control issue; or

(ii) Questioned costs of \$10,000 or more due to an audit finding (see Subpart E-Auditor, paragraph 510 of OMB Circular No. A-133).

(3) NASA contracting officers will maintain a dialogue with DOD Administrative Contracting Officers (ACO) who have been delegated activities on NASA contracts. A review will be conducted no less frequently than semiannually, and the status and disposition of significant audit findings will be documented in the contract file.

(e)(1) The terms "resolution" and "disposition" are defined in Appendix A of NPG 1200.1.

(2) The resolution and disposition of OMB Circular No. A-133 audits are handled as follows:

(i) Audit findings pertaining to an individual NASA award are the responsibility of the procurement officer administering that award.

(ii) Audit findings having a Governmentwide impact are the responsibility of the cognizant Federal agency responsible for oversight. For organizations subject to OMB Circular No. A-133, there is either a cognizant agency or an oversight agency. The cognizant agency is the Federal agency that provides the predominant amount of direct funding to the recipient organization unless OMB makes a specific cognizant agency for audit assignment. To provide for the continuity of cognizance, the

determination of the predominant amount of direct funding will be based on the direct Federal awards expended in the recipient's fiscal years ending in 1995, 2000, 2005, and every fifth year thereafter. When there is no direct funding, the Federal agency with the predominant indirect funding is to assume the oversight responsibilities. In cases where NASA is the cognizant or oversight Federal agency, audit resolution and disposition is the responsibility of the procurement officer for the Center having the largest amount of direct funding, or, if there is no direct funding, the largest amount of indirect funding for the audited period. A copy of the memorandum dispositioning the findings shall be provided by each Center having resolution responsibility for the particular report to the Headquarters OIG office and Code HC.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Part 195

[Docket No. PS-121; Notice-3]

RIN 2137-AD 05

Pressure Testing Older Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipelines

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Confirmation of effective date of Direct Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document confirms the effective date of the amendments of the direct final rule which extends the time for compliance with the requirements for pressure testing of older hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This document confirms January 20, 1998 as the effective date of the direct final rule, published on October 21, 1997, at 62 FR 54591.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Israni, (202) 366-4571, e-mail: mike.israni@rspa.dot.gov, regarding the subject matter of this document, or the Dockets Unit (202) 366-4453, for copies of this document or other information in the docket.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On October 21, 1997, RSPA published a direct final rule (62 FR 54591) titled "Pressure Testing Older Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipelines." In that rule, RSPA stated that if no adverse comments were received by December 22, 1997, it would publish a confirmation notice in the **Federal Register** by January 5, 1998, and if an adverse comment was received, RSPA would issue a notice to confirm that fact and would withdraw the direct final rule in whole or in part. The rule also stated that RSPA might then incorporate the adverse comment(s) into a subsequent direct final rule or might publish a notice of proposed rulemaking.

The Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (THLPSSC) met on November 18, 1997, in Houston, TX, to consider the extension of the time for compliance discussed in the October direct final rule. (The THLPSSC was established by statute to evaluate the technical feasibility, reasonableness, and practicability of proposed regulations.) The consensus of the THLPSSC was to support the direct final rule.

RSPA received one industry comment supporting RSPA's action on extension of time for compliance. Therefore, this document confirms new compliance dates for pressure testing older hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines as amended in the direct final rule effective January 20, 1998.

The new compliance dates are as follows:

- Before December 7, 1998, plan and schedule testing; or establish the pipeline's maximum operating pressure under § 195.406 (a)(5).
- Before December 7, 2000, pressure test each pipeline containing more than 50 percent by mileage of electric resistance welded pipe manufactured before 1970; and at least 50 percent of the mileage of all other pipelines; and
- Before December 7, 2003, pressure test the remainder of the pipeline mileage.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on January 21, 1998.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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